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An Irrepressible Controversy.

The Forest Service is attached to the Department of Agriculture and not to the Department of the Interior, but Secretary BALLINGER, who has asked for an investigation of his Department by Congress "to put at rest the suspicions, criticisms and representations of corrupt or improper practices" directed and made against his administration, is justified in including the Forest Service in the scope of investigation if the charges of which he is the target originated in that bureau, of which the Hon. GIFFORD PINCHOT is head. As a matter of fact, Mr. L. H. GLAVIS, whose report upon the Cunningham coal land claims in Alaska reflected upon Secretary BALLINGER, was one of his own subordinates, having been, prior to his dismissal from the public service, chief of field division of the General Land Office, but the Glavis report, ugly as its insinuations were, was only an incident in the campaign to discredit Secretary BALLINGER as a conservator of the natural resources.

President TAFT's letter in the middle of September upholding the course of Secretary BALLINGER and ordering the dismissal of GLAVIS for trumping up a case that, as Mr. TAFT said, embraced "only shreds of suspicion without any substantial evidence to sustain his attack," did not abate the rigor of the controversy between partisans of the Chief Forester and of the Secretary of the Interior. Nor did Mr. TAFT's compliments to Mr. PINCHOT upon his zeal and integrity and the President's concern for the retention of the Chief Forester's services produce harmony. Mr. WICKERHAM's favorable judgment upon Mr. BALLINGER's administration after a personal investigation was also unavailing. Washington still resounds with the clamor of conservators who press the charge that Secretary BALLINGER is an enemy of the Roosevelt policy, which Mr. PINCHOT at Salt Lake City and elsewhere recognized as his chief duty. Mr. TAFT, at Salt Lake City also, committed himself to the Roosevelt policy of conservation in express terms. In principle Secretary BALLINGER also advocates that policy, but at the price of loose construction of the law, in which respect the Secretary and Mr. TAFT are in absolute agreement.

It is not open to doubt that the ammunition for the broadsides directed at Secretary BALLINGER comes in some form or other from the Forest Service; hence the Secretary's insistence that the bureau be also investigated. "I court the widest and fullest inquiry by Congress in these matters," says Mr. BALLINGER in his letter laid before the Senate by Mr. WESLEY L. JONES of Washington. "The investigation asked for cannot well be denied. In justice it should cover also, as Secretary BALLINGER desires, any recent unofficial activities of Mr. PINCHOT's bureau in relation to the case."

Familiar Backs.

There was, we presume, no one familiar with the character and courage of the present "leaders" of the Republican party who suspected for a single moment that they would long stand to the fore in a dispute with Governor HUGHES. Every one knew that all these morally defective and mentally incompetent politicians were certain to surrender the moment they felt their own valuable persons in danger. The matter of direct primaries was to them nothing except as it offered a chance to oppose a man they hated for reasons that were always creditable to him.

The regret in the situation has constantly been that the direct primary debate, which was and is essentially one involving genuine questions of governmental machinery, should be belittled and debilitated by the petty spite of the men for whom no principle was important and to whom no question of government was even intelligible. Without WOODRUFF, BARNES and PARSONS in the discussion, without the grotesque consequences of their party prominence ever present as an inevitable illogical argument in the hands of one side, the whole problem might have had intelligent consideration and received judicial determination.

All this was made impossible the moment these Republican bores were seized upon direct nominations as a means of gratifying their private grudges and personal piques. To use it as long as they dared and then run from it, cringing and fawning in the presence of the Governor they had abused, this was always the obvious end to their campaign. That they have now taken to their heels, that they have again demonstrated how little feigned courage covers the real cowardice of the average politician, is no surprise. If they actually gone, moreover, no real

opponent of the direct nominations principle can fail to rejoice. We do not imagine that Mr. WOODRUFF's ridiculous and insincere "concessions" will satisfy any one. We do not imagine that the Hon. CHARLES E. HUGHES, for example, seeing familiar backs and witnessing the now accustomed spectacle of fleeing statesmen, will give much serious attention to conditions offered by opponents on the run. In Mr. WOODRUFF's proposals we see nothing remotely resembling actual concession to the main idea for which Governor HUGHES is fighting, and we do not expect that the Governor will be much more deeply impressed.

The conclusion we draw from Mr. WOODRUFF's remarks is that he is scared, that the Hon. WILLIAM BARNES, Jr., is scared, that the Hon. HERBERT PARSONS and a dozen other heroes are scared. Being scared they are quite prepared to concede anything that they think will save themselves. About direct nomination itself they never knew much; of its possible effect upon them they feared less. To them it was a chance to hit an enemy in the back, and being great leaders they selected it with enthusiasm and are now endeavoring to escape the consequences at the hands of those who cared as little as they themselves about direct nominations, but eagerly seized upon a chance to punish a politician.

It would be a wholly desirable thing if, now that the politicians have taken to their heels, the discussion of direct primaries could take on a calm and reasonable character; if passion and prejudice, the natural result of the presence of politicians, could be got rid of and the actual practical workings of the Hughes scheme examined, explained, judged. The chance of this must largely depend upon whether Governor HUGHES is seeking to achieve real reform or only to win a personal victory. As for the triumph incident to the present precipitate flight of the bosses, no one will deny this has been deserved, and few will find it difficult to rejoice with the Governor. His friends are frequently hard to endure, but his enemies are everybody's.

The Christmas Spirit in the "Congressional Record."

We have read with unmitigated satisfaction Senator DREW's speech of Monday last on the prosperity of the country. The Senator's remarks are chock full of the true holiday spirit of cheerfulness and good will to every laudable interest and industry. No living American is better fitted than Mr. DREW by temperament and information to enlarge upon the concluding paragraph of President TAFT's message and pour sunshine upon contemporary statistics of trade and finance. Nobody, we may add, derives more innocent enjoyment from the job of pouring.

How easily, for example, the serious problems arising from the present relation of Government income to Government expenditure resolve themselves into rainbow vapor under the chemistry of Senator DREW's method:—
Of the \$15,000,000 of additional revenue gained from the increase of tariff duties upon liquors and luxuries, about one-half of it is lost again in the reduction of the tariff from the present rate upon the necessities of life. But when we add to the additional revenue upon these articles the nearly \$10,000,000 more which is to come from tobacco, and from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 which is to come from the corporation tax, and the still additional income which will come from property and greater purchasing powers, our revenues will be in excess of expenditures and the Government on "easy street."

Heaven preserve long to the Senate and the country the chiefest of our prophets of felicity! Who will investigate too closely at the present season the topography of his route to Easy street? Who will analyze his shining figures? Who will ask him to guarantee the proceeds of the corporation tax? Who will require him to define that elastic final resource, "the still additional income which will come from prosperity and greater purchasing powers"? Who will dwell just now on the necessity of the grueling process of creating surplus by reducing appropriations? That is all for by and by. At present Mr. DREW's eloquent finger points, and Easy street is there.

During a recent memorable debate the pessimist insurgents contributed to the *Congressional Record* by Senator DREW's own count not less than 9,776,000 words in support of the contrary proposition. He disposes of the 9,776,000 words in less than three dozen of his own. We admire him for it, and thank him thus publicly.

"To Promote a Patriotic Spirit."

Who does not regard with high approval any measure that is designed "to promote a patriotic spirit among the citizens and youth of the United States and for the encouragement of rifle practice"? Certainly not the National Board for Promotion of Rifle Practice or the Hon. JOHN A. T. HULL of Iowa. The project allures, and its very title disarms criticism. So must Mr. HULL have thought when he introduced a bill providing for the lending of Government rifles to shooting clubs and schools, and making a handsome grant for expenses:—

"For the promotion of rifle practice in public schools, colleges, universities and civilian rifle clubs, including the cost of ammunition, prizes and the necessary appliances therefor, and for the expense of indoor and outdoor competitions among the students and members attending or belonging to the same, including the necessary traveling expenses and per diem of the persons designated by the Secretary of War to superintend such instruction and competitions, which shall be conducted by the Secretary of War, under the supervision of the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, there is hereby annually appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$100,000."

As this paragraph is read the attention is particularly attracted and consciously held by the phrase "including the cost of ammunition," and a great white light seems immediately to illuminate the love of country that is behind this modest assault on the Treasury. Promptly the mind reverts to that magnificent plan for the purchase from private manufacturers of 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition to be fired in competition with an equal number of Government made cartridges, to deter-

mine something or other, and to profit the disinterested corporations that supply to the public powder and ball. There seems to be a common thought, a common purpose, in these measures: a thought that if patriotism is run low it may be revived without injury to the pockets of certain perturbed and fearful lovers of this land.

An annual appropriation of \$100,000 for "the cost of ammunition"; it has a familiar smell, not unlike that from an ancient drain.

Austrian Slavs.

More than the mild interest which Europe has usually shown in Austrian parliamentary obstructive methods is taken in the recent deadlock by which the Slav party sought to force a reconstruction of the Cabinet. Deadlocks at Vienna have been interesting outside of the empire chiefly on account of the intensity of racial strife and the bandying of picturesque epithets by Reichsrath debaters, but a Slav victory in the face of the preponderance of Germanic policies is a matter of no small significance.

The Slav has been the centre of political interest in Austria recently largely on account of his opposition to Count ARHENTHAL's scheme of agrandizement in the Balkans. Scarcely had the rumors of war with Serbia ceased when a number of poor schoolmasters, tradesmen and priests were tried at Agram on the charge of high treason. It was averred that they were in a conspiracy to form a southern Slav empire under King PETER KARAGEORJEVITCH. Of the fifty-three defendants thirty-one were found guilty and severe terms of imprisonment were imposed. This "conspiracy" is now being threshed over in the Austrian high court through an action for libel brought by members of the Croatian Diet against the Austrian historian DR. HEINRICH FRIEDMUND.

The treason trial at Agram was considered as purely political, and the result bitterly inflamed the southern Slavs against those whom they considered their persecutors. They have in the libel suit still another and perhaps greater cause for resentment against Government methods, for many of the documents which Dr. FRIEDMUND had published as proof of the anti-Austro-Hungarian "conspiracy" have been proved to be forgeries, while societies which he charged with agitation against the Austrians are found never to have existed. Besides this the uncovering of the antecedents of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian annexation has shown the Austro-Hungarian official world in a most unfavorable light in its attitude toward Serbia and the southern Slavs.

Another result of the Near East imbroglio was to give the Slav a realization of the strength of Pan-Slavism. The surrender of Russia to the threats of Germany and Austria was a severe blow to the northern Slavs, among whom are the most active advocates of a united Slav people. It showed them that Russia could not be depended upon, and to-day the centre of Pan-Slavism is not St. Petersburg, in the greatest of Slav nations, but Prague, while Pan-Slavism is a missionary movement directed from Bohemia to convert indifferent and apathetic Russians. These reverses and disappointments have had a tendency to unite the warring Slav factions against a common opponent, and to this fact is due no doubt their recent parliamentary victory.

What advantage will the Slavs make of their success? "A triumph of the Slav idea would mean the secession of Austria from Germany," is a remark that has been frequently made regarding Austrian politics. The most optimistic Czech perhaps has no idea of such an immediate violent revolution. If he had he could certainly be put right by one of his most distinguished leaders. In a debate in the Reichsrath DR. KRAMEZ said:—

"There remains nothing in the domain of foreign politics. We must bow our heads before the irresistible might of Germany and accept the alliance between Austria and Germany. Our dream of a rapprochement with Russia was the dream of a child."

Russia, he declared, is too enfeebled to stand as the head of the Slav race, and so far from being a protector and patron of the Austrian Slavs she herself needs their protection and patronage.

This Slav success, however, may have the effect of securing for the northern element privileges for which they have long contended, and for the southern element a more equitable treatment and a more far-sighted consideration of the interest of the southern Slav beyond the Austrian borders.

Official Winter.

The thanks of our tropical territory (unorganized) of Alaska will ring to-day in pleasant cadence of Thinkin', of Russian, and of that strange speech which our most travel weary novelists give us to understand is the American language as spoken in those parts.

Now that his tour of duty is about to end the Chief Signal Officer has felt the need of Alaska and has met it like a gallant soldier. In his almanac he found that December 22 is the shortest day of the year, the sun crosses the solstice and winter begins, the exact time 6:20 in the morning. "Fine," says he "Alaska ought to know that." Alaska does know it now. The naval observatory set the signal going, and we note in passing that the army leaves to the navy the uncomfortable task of turning out of its warm bed so long before breakfast; the telegraph companies "extended the courtesy" of their wires to Seattle; the military telegraph by cable and land wire, and at St. Michaels by ethergram, carried to distant Nome the news that with that particular tick of the sander the long and cruel winter had begun. For weeks the Yukon has been a frozen

torrent of still ice; the aurora borealis has flashed green and rose over the arctic highlands; the wind has howled down the Chilkoot Pass and then howled up the pass again. These things are not winter even though they drive the Alaskan to dig up and disinfect his winter furs. They are but weather, and for twenty years the Signal Corps has left the weather severely alone in the agricultural hands of the meteorologists to whose custody it has been committed and by whom it is doled out in daily forecasts, important if true. In flashing his winter news to Alaska yesterday General ALLER, brightening as he takes his flight, seems to have reverted to activities once familiar but long since laid aside. Winter is now officially open.

On and after January 1, 1910, any Chicago policeman found guilty of drunkenness will "have to go." This reviving Puritanism of Cook county will inspire a just disdain in the large and liberal soul of this town.

On the day DR. JOSE MADRIZ was inaugurated as President of Nicaragua under the auspices of Señor ZELAYA, who had retired in his favor, a battle was fought between the army and the Government. The Zelayan army, the rank and file of which was probably unfamiliar with the change of administration at Managua. The stars in their courses seem to fight for the State Department. A triumph of the Government forces at Rama would have made an awkward situation, for at the inauguration in Managua ex-President ZELAYA committed his successor, without objection, to vigorous measures in putting down the rebellion. If General ESTRADA's victory at Rama was decisive, as all dispatches reported, the elimination of both MADRIZ and ZELAYA would be a logical result. In Spanish American countries the victor in the field of revolt assumes the Presidency by right. The State Department has not recognized Señor MADRIZ as President of Nicaragua, and it has looked with favor upon the cause of General ESTRADA.

In an address in Washington DR. WILEY, chief of bureau of chemistry, drew the Constitution of the United States was cited in part to the needs of the present generation. DR. WILEY can't be amended and the Constitution can.

On the whole we are inclined to think that the selection of Colonel TOOT FLAKE of Charlotte to fill North Carolina's unoccupied niche in the National Statuary Hall would be "a graceful tribute" to that town of poets, philologists and history reapers. Colonel TOOT FLAKE was no mean poet, and he signed, if he did not write, the Mecklenburg Declaration.

LIVERPOOL SLUMS.

Vanishing Under Municipal Plans for Housing the Poor.

From Daily Counselor and Trade Reports.
About forty years ago there were in Liverpool 25,000 insanitary houses. Eighteen thousand have been demolished. About 6,000 of these were destroyed by private enterprise to make room for business premises, the remaining 12,000 having been cleared away by the municipality.

On the site of a greater portion of the houses which the municipality has swept away and on the other sites acquired by them for the purpose the corporation has erected a scheme just described under the control of the city council. Within three years there have been demolished in Liverpool some 260 courts and alleys, mostly insanitary slums, and on these sites now stand 12,000 dwellings, the cost of which has been paid by the city. Nearly \$5,000,000 has been spent in this work of demolition and reconstruction. Some 10,000 people, mostly the former occupants of the destroyed sections, are housed in simple comfort and under sound conditions in these new buildings.

This work is in the hands of a committee of the city council known as the "housing committee," which presents recommendations to the council based upon reports of the medical officer of health and the surveyor. About 4,000 insanitary houses are yet to be dealt with. At present the corporation is dealing with six unhealthy areas, having obtained parliamentary powers to acquire these areas under the provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes act of 1890. On the sites of these unhealthy areas new dwellings will be erected by the municipality to accommodate 2,828 persons. The plans provide for 80 houses of four rooms each, 188 of three rooms and 277 of two rooms. No single room tenements will be constructed. Space for four shops will be apportioned, and these 558 dwellings will contain 1,480 rooms. To complete the portion of the scheme just described 118 property interests must be acquired, and it has so far progressed that the latest report gives only twenty-seven yet to be secured, and the price of these is now but a matter of arbitrament. The probable cost of the land is purchased, will be about \$305,400, and for the buildings \$300,490 is allowed, a total of \$1,095,890. Street improvements and a recreation ground will use 5,558 yards of the total of 48,980 to be acquired.

At the present time the corporation of Liverpool ratepayers for the housing reforms which have been effected by the municipality, after the credit of rents is deducted, is only four cents on \$4.56. This produces \$143,200. The corporation is carrying the \$1,177,500 which is proposed to expend will be equivalent to a little over a cent rate, after deducting for rentals, &c. This rate of five cents on \$4.56 has accompanied the corporation's request for still further aid to young aspirants. "Never fear, up any manuscripts unless they are ephemeral." A new editor—and a new editor sometimes means practically a new periodical—took ten of my manuscripts and had been declined by his predecessors. It was merely a case of individuality. Know your editors! Also know the lines they work on. If you wish to make money, I told an editor the other day that he had no business to have lines, as personally I did not believe in them, but for the publisher he only smiled.

As for obtaining articles free of charge, I have no objection to that, but I have not been so positively practised. The other day I sent an editor of a magazine in the subway, who in answer to my inquiry as to whether he needed any matter replied: "Oh, no, I can get all I want gratis from—", and he named people who were only too willing to black his shoes for the privilege of seeing their names in type. I didn't blame that editor, but I should have liked to know him out of the window.

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RECREATIONS OF THE GODS.

That the gods on the high Olympus of arts and letters do occasionally unbend, unbottled and recreate we are assured by "Who's Who" (London) for 1910. Somebody or other's "Theophile Gautier" swore that the best reading in the world could be had in the dictionary. There are many who find solace in various encyclopedias; but we plump boldly for "Who's Who," whether in Europe or America. Therein the complacent victim, be he millionaire or artist, agitator or man of the cloth, answers a series of cunningly framed questions that usually bring forth self-revealing answers. Men babble in its pages as they would never dare to babble in their sleep.

It is not invidious to read that Hall Caine bicycles, that Marie Corelli "has devoted herself to literature"—mark the phrase—"but has never abandoned her love of music—piano and mandolin." When George Moore was questioned as to his amusements he answered: "Religion." This may smack of irreverence to many, yet we wager it is near the truth. Religion has always played a dominant rôle in Mr. Moore's life. First he would, and then he wouldn't; he was born a Roman Catholic, then he seceded; then he was a prodigal son who returned to the bosom of his family; then he broke away again. He may yet retire within the shadow of the cathedral.

Bernard Shaw's notion of recreation is embodied thus: "Anything except sport." Being a confessed vegetarian, this is a logical answer. Mr. Chesterton refuses to admit any other form of recreation than harrising Mr. Shaw or getting a "rise" out of Mr. Wells. Mr. Churchill is black on the question; perhaps he knew that 1910 would furnish him quota of sport. A. C. Benson admits that he played football until 1893. His clever brother, the author of "Dodo," likes golf, skating, tennis. We prefer to think of the "authorities" in this book, who stoutly declare that their favorite form of recreation is sleeping. Would that there were more. This recalls the young American poet who avers that luncheon is for him the proper thing.

Robert Hichens is given to driving, tennis, riding, travelling; Frank Harris declares that he "finds it pleasant to write about his seniors in the art of letters." Shades of Shakespeare! The postivist Frederic Harrison takes kindly to gardening; Thomas Hardy to the study of architecture. Maurice Hewlett gives no clue to his playmaking; perhaps, like Max Beerbohm, he reads his own "works," and we fairly commend the practice; a practice with authors more honored in the observance than in the fact. D'Annunzio goes up in aeroplanes; Tolstoy farms; William James reads novels; Henry James does not; metaphysics; Maeterlinck keeps bees and canoes; Pinero belongs to the Beefsteak Club. That gentle anarchist Prince Kropotkin indulges in bookbinding and carpentry; Gorky loafa at Capri; Premier Asquith golfa; so does Andrew Lang—when he isn't firing upon Anatole France with verbal bombshells.

What recreation is most liked by the colored? Here is the longest list in the volume: "Ranching" and "big game hunting on the great plains and in the Rocky Mountains; mammalogy and field natural history generally." There is material for two or three lifetimes compressed in these frank sentences. Directly below them Senator Elihu Root gives his Washington address; naught as to his moods of relaxation.

The variety of tastes is proverbial, but the man eating shark, though "I've called the seven seas and several other seas," is whaler, merchantman and man-of-war from Nova Scotia to the Bering Sea and the "Sand Heads" of the Hooigley, and I'm still in business with a fair prospect of several years more of it. I believe in the belief that my experience might have been exceptional and that I might be convinced that I held an erroneous opinion of the shark. I have discussed him, his habits, his life, with other seamen of every nationality and shade of color bathing and swimming far at sea surrounded by sharks and heedless of them. I have yet to see the man eating shark, though "I've called the seven seas and several other seas," is whaler, merchantman and man-of-war from Nova Scotia to the Bering Sea and the "Sand Heads" of the Hooigley, and I'm still in business with a fair prospect of several years more of it. 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